Mint of the U. States — at Philadelphia
M. & R. Department. —

Philad^a 3 Oct. 1879

Sir

I regret to report to you that the Mexican Dollars received by us for some years past are quite inferior to those formerly received in softness of metal. A large proportion of the Ingots for coinage prepared from them by this department of the Mint are returned upon our hands by the Coiner as too hard, brittle and liable to blister, and therefore unfit for coinage.

If we are to render them fit for coinage by refining in the crucible with fluxes, they require <u>at least</u> two meltings, often more, reassay, readjustment of standard, & each operation is attended with more or less absolute loss of Silver. The cost, including loss of metal, is therefore serious. They can be refined more perfectly, & with less loss of metal, by acid refining, & therefore more satisfactorily to the Government account.

RG104 E-1 Box 118

Considering the pressure upon this Mint for a large amount of work during the Month, about up to the limit of our capacity, I respectfully suggest that we can with more certainty accomplish our quota of work, by refining the Mexican Dollars with acid before alloying them again for coinage.

Very respectfully yours
S. H. Booth
M. T. R.

Hon. A. Loudon Snowden
Superintendent

RG104 E-1 Box 118

760 74

U. S. Mint, Melter and Refiner's Department,

PHILADELPHIA, PENN.,

Oct 3, 1879.

Jas. C. Booth

Melter and Refiner.

On account of the hard brittle quality of the metal, recommends that Mexican dollars be refined by acid, before alloying them again for coinage.

No. of Enclosures,

Recd Oct. 3rd 1879.

RG104 E-1 Box 118

NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 118

[Abstract:] On account of the hard brittle quality of the metal… 760 ¾

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